

THE EXHIBITION BUILDING.—I went into the "shell" of the Great Exhibition the other day, and was much struck by its melancholy aspect. The seats were all standing, tenantless, in rows, as if they were placed rank and file, to be marched off to another station at a moment's notice: after having borne the weight of all nations on their backs, they found their occupation gone, and were reposing. The water cans, all buddled up together in friendship without a single split among them, looked proud at having laid the dust of hospitable England, for the comfort of our foreign brothers and selves. The bell which once called the workmen together to erect this mighty palace will ere long use its metal tongue to call them to its demolition. The staircases now creak under the weight of a single individual, though they bore the tread of many a foreign power, without a murmur. I was overwhelmed with a melancholy by the sight of the building, remembering what it was. The effect, standing at one end of the building, and looking towards the other, through its immense length is very extraordinary, there being nothing to obstruct the view, and the two great looking glasses still remain, as if intended to deceive the spectator as to the real length. Over them in the west gallery is the large organ that once pealed forth to gathered thousands, but now alas! it is silent, although a printed bill upon it still intimates that "it will be played at three o'clock."

SID.
The sale of fittings has been going on during the week. Lot 1, "thirty-seven battens, about 8 feet," sold for 1s. 11d. per batten.

BUILDERS' TENDERS.—The tenders sent in from builders invited, for some additions and alterations, Nos. 5 and 6, Newington-causeway, under Mr. Henry Jarvis, architect, estimated from quantities furnished by him and Mr. Marshall, with 50*l.* added to each of the tenders, with the architect's knowledge, on account of the short time allowed for executing a portion of the works, were—

Brass and Son.....	£1,450	0	0
Pritchard and Son.....	1,437	0	0
John Wilson.....	1,394	0	0
Locke and Nesham.....	1,393	0	0
Lawrence and Sons.....	1,382	0	0
Thos. Rider.....	1,366	0	0
James Cooper.....	1,356	0	0

Mr. Cooper has written to us complaining that though his tender was the lowest, because he would not undertake it for 1,200*l.* the work is being done by a party who did not tender; and he urges persons "who are invited to tender for works, to stipulate that, if executed, one of the parties tendering should be accepted, and that such irregular proceedings should not be countenanced by respectable builders."

A MODEL OF WEST FRONT OF LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL.—At the Birmingham County Court last week, Dubher, a chaser and modeller, summoned Thornloe, a clock and watchmaker, for 19*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* balance of 60*l.* alleged to be due for a model in brass, gilt, 2 feet high, of the west front of Lichfield Cathedral, designed for the Great Exhibition. Defendant estimated the worth of the article, or at least the cost he expected to pay for it, at 7*l.* to 20*l.* Plaintiff, however, led evidence to prove that 60*l.* was cheap, that there were 400 figures modelled for it, and that it cost 5*l.* for mere soldering, and 28*l.* for other payments, besides fourteen visits to Lichfield, and wax modelling, &c. Verdict, 9*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* with costs, making the price in all 50*l.* exclusive of costs.

MOORE'S PATENT LEVER GLASS VENTILATOR.—This ventilator, intended to fill a square in any ash, has an advantage over others that we have seen in the extent to which the louvres can be opened, and the simplicity of the action by which this is effected. If the air be thrown at too sharp an angle against the casing in entering, it falls at once into the room, to the inconvenience of those who may be sitting near. Means for the escape of the vitiated air are even more important than for the admittance of fresh, and are too often disregarded.

GRAND SURREY TIDAL DOCK.—The particulars have been forwarded to us of a project to construct an immense dock, to be called Fountains Dock, with an entrance from the Thames at Deptford, and an outlet in the parish of Bermondsey. The object of it is to accommodate the sea-borne coal at a cheap rate, and so relieve the Thames of colliers. The projector should have his statement put into better English than it is, if he wish to make any impression on the public.

CAMBRIDGE ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—At the second meeting of the Society for the Lent Term, held on Thursday, Mr. O. W. Darys, St. John's College, read a paper on the Churches of the Lake District; and a communication was read from Mr. Freeman on the subject of Mr. Sharpe's "Seven Periods of Architecture."

TRADE AND MANUFACTURES OF PARIS.—The manufacture of furniture and cabinet-makers is carried on by 1,915 masters, who employ 9,006 workmen. In the manufacture of chairs and fauteuils (woodwork only) the number of persons employed is about 3,459. The turners reckon 94 masters and 389 workmen. In carving and ornamenting articles of furniture there is an ensemble of 222 masters and 1,125 workmen. The sawing establishments occupy 347 persons, masters and workmen. The upholstery trade occupies about 3,920 persons, many of them women. In the paper-hanging trade there are engaged 141 masters, who employ 3,295 workmen. The number of persons, masters and workmen, employed in wood-gilding is 1,310. In the manufacture of gas-fittings and of lamps about 3,000 persons are employed.

ORGANIZATION OF LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS.—Mr. H. Chester has laid before the council of the Society of Arts a proposal for the affiliation of the literary and scientific institutions, mechanics' institutes, and other similar bodies throughout the country, with the view of infusing new life into these local bodies, and of founding a well-organised system, whereby industrial knowledge may be cheaply and conveniently diffused. The council, it is said, appears to be disposed to act upon the suggestion.

BLAST IRON FURNACE SOOT.—It has been ascertained by Dr. Penny, of Glasgow, that the soot of iron furnaces contains a considerable quantity of salts of potash, of marketable value.

WHITTINGTON CLUB.—The members of this institution held their fourth annual soiree on the 3rd instant, when Mr. Monckton Milnes, M.P. now their president, commenced the evening with an address. This was followed by a selection of vocal and instrumental music; then the votaries of dancing had it all their own way. We were glad to learn that the institution is in a prosperous condition. It is fortunate in having an energetic secretary.

BELL-RINGING BY HYDRAULIC POWER.—A bell in the spire of St. Peter's Church, Dundee, has been fitted up with a striking apparatus worked by water power, whereby a couple of hammers striking on different parts of it ring a peal every morning at six and every evening at ten, without any manual superintendence at all, the power supplied by the town water company, being applied at the proper times by a clock which is connected with the same bell.

GLASS PUMPS, PIPES, AND DISHES.—We some time since expressed a wish that glass could be practically substituted for pumps and pipes where water was apt to act on lead. We are glad to see that a process, something like the enamelling of iron, has been taken up which seems to offer the very probable means of carrying out our wishes. It consists simply in the coating of the surfaces of iron inside and out with flint glass, whereby not only water pipes and pumps, but chemical and cooking utensils, plates and dishes of all sorts may be made to combine the tenacity of iron with the utility and beauty of glass. Vessels thus composed, it is said, may not only be knocked about without breaking, but may be even suddenly quenched from a red hot state without injury.

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND HEAT.—The French Government has instituted a prize of 50,000 francs in favour of the discoverer who shall render the voltaic pile applicable with economy to industry as a source of heat, to lighting, chemistry, mechanics, or medical practice. Scientific men of all nations are admitted to compete for the prize, which is open for five years.

CORK TOWN-HALL COMPETITION.—Two plans were selected by the Town-hall Committee, from about forty submitted, one from Messrs. Atkins and Johnson, to cost 14,000*l.*; and one from Mr. Hargrave, to cost about 12,000*l.* The council have awarded to these the first and second premium respectively.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

TO BUILDERS AND OTHERS.

THE BRITISH MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, 17, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, entertains proposals of any description involving the contingency of human life, and invites Builders and the public generally to examine for themselves the advantages gained for Assurers by the plan on which the Policies are granted, and which are indisputable except in cases of palpable fraud. It also recommends to their notice the BRITISH MUTUAL SUBSCRIPTION LOAN ASSURANCE CLASSES, established in connection with the Office, and which readily afford the means either for an eligible investment, or for obtaining pecuniary advances upon very advantageous terms, repayable by easy instalments extending over a lengthened period.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

RAGGOS's third letter to SOBRIAN next week. "Brick and Tile Machines."—Within the last three weeks we have received five requests to recommend a maker of brick and tile machines. We prefer to refer our writers to our advertising columns and their own judgment.

"D. A. B." "F. G. T." "T. L. D." (thanks). "J. L." (any thing sent for inspection will receive attention). "Messrs. B." "Martha Mason." "W. C. T." "Opies." "J. N." "Tyro." "T. M. F." "Antiquario" (there is not an architectural lending library. The library of the Central School of Design contains the books he desires). "J. B. R." "J. E." "Subscriber." Bristol. "J. D. P." "G. H." (we cannot pretend to advise on special cases). As a general rule there can be no question as to the value of ventilators in the position indicated. "E. S." (under our mark). "M. T." (ditto). "W. B." "D. D." (the delivery of skeletons, &c. has led to the now generally received opinion that crinoids are sepulchral). "W. L." (improper folding of THE BUILDER costs wholly with the senders). "E. T. B." "W. H. B." "E. H. M." (will our correspondent favour us with his address). "W. M." (says he has the model of just such a machine for ramming street paving as we hinted at last week. He must take his own course to make it known). "C. T." "Mr. B." "R. T." "A Party Concerned." "J. B." "Your Constant Reader." "S. L. M." "H. O." "Books and Addresses."—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

JAMES CHERRY, SURVEYOR.—If any one will furnish the address of James Cherry, late of Shrewsbury Cottage, Rhoe-are-street, Linton, afterwards of Croydon and then of Blackney, to Mr. NIAS, a Copehall-court, City, they will be rewarded for their trouble.

TO ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS, CONTRACTORS FOR SEWERS or Patent Brick and Tile Machines; also to Engineers, or other Workers in Metals.

VALUABLE INVENTIONS FOR SALE of otherwise, one of which is patented; the others are prepared under the late Act—Models may be seen on application to B. W. Lushington's Library, Portland-terrace, near Rotherhithe gate.